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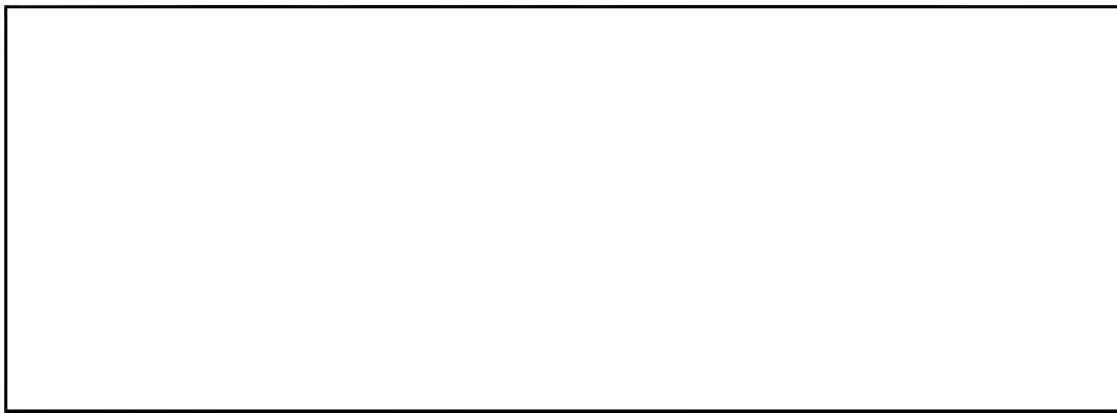
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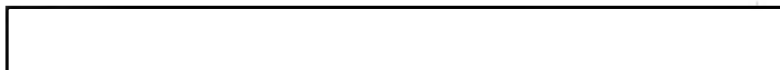


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CAMBODIA: Lon Nol apparently plans a cabinet reshuffle. (Page 9)



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CAMBODIA: President Lon Nol's next political project most likely will be to reshuffle the cabinet, now that the National Assembly election is out of the way.

Shortly before the voting on 3 September, Lon Nol indicated that his competent information minister, Long Boret, will take over the Foreign Ministry from Son Ngoc Thanh whose rightist reputation has complicated Phnom Penh's efforts to project a neutralist image.

More importantly, however, Lon Nol may try to prevail upon some of his chief civilian critics to fill key posts in a new government in order to restore some semblance of political unity and to promote greater bureaucratic efficiency. He has already offered to make Democratic Party leader In Tam a "special adviser to the President." In Tam has shown some interest, but he is under pressure from party members to refuse. At the same time, Lon Nol is also still reserving the vice-presidency for Republican Party head Sirik Matak who thus far has evaded committing himself.

Although complete election returns are not due to be announced until next Sunday, the regime is already claiming that progovernment candidates of the Social-Republican Party--who ran against only token opposition--have captured almost all of the 126 seats in the new assembly. The government apparently again managed to muster a heavy military vote; the civilian vote reportedly was quite light. The Communists did not undertake any major military actions designed to disrupt the election but instead concentrated on trying to deter voters in some rural areas from going to the polls.

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